HONORING THE LIFE OF FIREFIGHTER PEYTON MORSE OF LA FARGEVILLE, NY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Firefighter Peyton Morse of the Watertown Fire Department. On March 12, 2021, Peyton tragically passed away after suffering a medical emergency during a training exercise at the New York State Academy of Fire Science.

Peyton's lifelong dream was to become a firefighter and help others in any way that he could. During his time at Siena College, he participated in the associate firefighter program to gain hands-on experience training with the Shaker Road Loudonville Fire Department. When he had the opportunity to attend the fire academy, Peyton took a leave of absence from his final semester to pursue his passion and eventually became a permanent member of the Watertown Fire Department. Peyton officially received his firefighter badge, Badge No. 94, while hospitalized in the Intensive Care Unit as he fought to recover from his tragic accident.

Peyton's colleagues remember him as an exceptionally dedicated firefighter who was always enthusiastic in his role. He had a true servant's heart and always put others above himself, even after he passed on as an organ donor. The recent celebrations of Peyton's life are proof of the impact he made on those in his community. Hundreds of North Country firefighters, police and other emergency responders gathered to welcome Peyton's motorcade home. The community rallied together to pay their respects and show their support for Peyton's family by placing yellow hearts in the windows of homes and businesses. Siena College will posthumously present Peyton's family with his diploma at a ceremonial graduation on May 1, 2021.

On behalf of New York's 21st district, I am honored to recognize Peyton for his selfless service to his community. It is my hope that his fearless spirit and positivity will be carried on by those who knew and loved him, and I ask this House to remember his sacrifice and legacy forever.

RECOGNIZING THE ARCADIA VALLEY TIGERS

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Arcadia Valley Tigers who are the 2020 Missouri Class 2 Girls Cross Country Team Champions.

The 2020 Tiger Cross Country team is the first in the history of Arcadia Valley to win the state championship title. In addition to the state title the Tigers were district champions with six girls being named all district including the Individual district champion, Erica Standefer.

Coach Don Barzowski praised his team for their hard work and dedication. Indeed, that dedication to excellence paid off on the track.

I offer my heartfelt congratulations to Coach Barzowski and Assistant Coach Paul Royer, and their championship athletes Erica Standefer, Trinity Russell, Ella Weber, Mary Tevis, Alyssa Glanzer, Avery Jones, Emma Dettmer and Natalie Stricklin.

It is my great privilege to recognize the Arcadia Valley Tigers as the Class 2 Missouri State Championship Girls Cross Country Team today before the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING DESSERAY ''DEZ'' VEGA AND ALUM ROCK COUNSELING CENTER ON THE OCCASION OF PRESIDENT BIDEN'S JOINT ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, I rise to today to recognize Desseray ''Dez'' Vega, a Program Manager at Alum Rock Counseling Center (ARCC) in my Congressional district. I was proud to invite Ms. Vega to be my virtual guest to President Biden 's Joint Address to Congress on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

ARCC provides behavioral health and community support services for more than 10,000 children and families in Santa Clara County each year. Before the Joint Address, I spoke to Ms. Vega about the effect the COVID relief bills have had on ARCC, the counselors she manages, her clients, and her family. I was glad to hear that the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) kept ARCC from laying off around 80 people, helping both the employees and their families as well as the children they serve.

Ms. Vega works one-on-one with in-need children in San Jose and manages a team of 15 counselors as part of ARCC's Prevention and Early Intervention program. Ms. Vega said, ''I was able to see firsthand how the PPP really made a difference. Having income and stability helps us [counselors] be more present and helps our clients and their families. During the pandemic, there has been trauma for the families we serve, and everything has been inconsistent except for the therapy we provide. From my personal experience, I'm so grateful'' for COVID relief legislation.

Madam Speaker, the truth is, it is us who should be grateful for Ms. Vega, counselors like her. and organizations like ARCC that serve our communities. It is my pleasure to recognize Ms. Vega and her positive contributions to the lives of children and families in my Congressional district before, during, and after the pandemic. I also call on all my colleagues to join me in continuing to meet the needs of communities across the country during and after the COVID–19 pandemic.

HONORING FORT WAYNE WORLD WAR II VETERAN DON THEURER)

HON. JIM BANKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Mr. BANKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Mr. Don Theurer of Fort Wayne.

Mr. Theurer just celebrated his 100th birthday on Monday, April 26. Congratulations on this wonderful occasion. I hope his heart is filled with joy knowing he has experienced our country's greatest blessings, including the affection of family and friends over a long, well-lived life.

Our Nation owes Mr. Theurer a debt of gratitude for his dedicated service to our country. Serving in the United States Army during World War II, he landed at Normandy less than 20 days after D-Day, saw combat in Holland and took part in the Allied liberation of Western Europe and occupation of Germany.

After the war, Theurer returned home to northeast Indiana, where he attended college, married his sweetheart Thelma, and began work at Magnavox, for whom he would work the entirety of his career. A longtime, active member of Messiah Lutheran Church, Theurer today remains in good health, as he reads daily and drives frequently.

As one of the oldest veterans in Indiana, I, and the entirety of Congress, send to him best wishes as he celebrates this historic milestone.

The story of Don Theurer is the story of American greatness. As a patriot who served his country in war and community in peace, this record is a testament to his commitment to the American people and ideals to which our Nation strive.

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIE E. COLBERT-ROSENWALD SCHOOL TEXAS HISTORICAL MONUMENT DEDICATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 30, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Annie E. Colbert-Rosenwald School Texas State Historical Marker in Dayton, Liberty County, Texas. The text of marker reads as follows:

BY 1883, LIBERTY COUNTY MAINTAINED 53 SCHOOLS, INCLUDING 19 AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOLS. THE AVERAGE SCHOOL TERM WAS THREE MONTHS FOR AGES 8–14 BUT THE ONLY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN DAYTON WAS LOCATED NEAR THE SETTLEMENTS OF STILSON AND FOUTS

IN THE LATE 1890S, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT HIRED THEIR FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TEACHER, ANNIE (FAIRCHILD) COLBERT (1866–1961). BORN IN HOUSTON, SHE ATTENDED HOUSTON SCHOOLS AND THEN TILLOTSON INSTITUTE IN AUSTIN. SHE TAUGHT AT THE GREGORY SCHOOL UNTIL SHE MARRIED RAILROAD PORTER TONY COLBERT.

FORBIDDEN TO TEACH SCHOOL IN HOUSTON AS A MARRIED WOMAN, THEY MOVED TO DAYTON WHERE ANNIE ACCEPTED A POSTION AT A ONE-ROOM SHACK. UPON ARRIVAL, SHE GATHERED HER STUDENTS AND, TOGETHER, THEY BUILT AN IMPROVED ONE-ROOM FRAME SCHOOLHOUSE NEAR LUKE AND PRATER STREETS. MRS. COLBERT CONTINUED TO TEACH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS OF DAYTON UNTIL 1918, INSTILLING THE VALUE OF EDUCATION IN HER STUDENTS AND WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

IN 1918, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOOL RELOCATED TO A SITE NEAR